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BRICK BY BRICK: THE HOUSE THAT SAW HISTORY

PROFILE: SARAH TAMBUSI

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## Letter from the Editor:

This issue of the magazine is filled with stories about people and places that contribute to Haddonfield's character and charm.

The house at the center of our story "The House That Saw History" serves as a perfect metonym for a particular chapter of Haddonfield's history. In tracing the story of 436 Kings Highway East, Katrina Janco ends up telling the story of an entire historic district's creation.

I'm reminded of Virginia Lee Burton's classic childhood book "The Little House," in which a wide-eyed home becomes distressed as a city rises around her and smokestacks sully the surroundings. Eventually, a relative of the original builder arranges to move the little house back to the countryside, restoring her peace. There's a happy ending in our version too: As change looms, Haddonfield residents rally to protect the neighborhood from development. You can almost imagine our little house smiling in relief.

That spirit of stewardship carries through this issue. Sarah Tambussi, administrator at the Historical Society of Haddonfield, is a connector of people and ideas, and the quiet force behind so much of the history we celebrate. She has suggested the homes in our historical home series, "Brick by Brick," and is forever brainstorming about how to bolster worthy causes. In our conversation for this issue, it quickly became clear that linking people, organizations, and ideas is part of her makeup. Speak with her for a few minutes and you'll leave

with a renewed appreciation for the layers of history in this town and some of her contagious enthusiasm for the work people are doing on its behalf.

Care for the community shows up at the Refill Market in Haddon Township, where the forward-thinking Tina Solak helps shoppers feel good about helping the planet. Her idea is disarmingly simple: small changes, like buying hand soap in bulk, can significantly reduce waste. It isn't hard to adjust our regular habits, yet more of us need to do it.

There's a similar intentionality in the work of photographer Jillian Guyette, whose images carry an emotional gravity, even though her working style is fluid. In Suzy Katz's profile, we step inside her inviting portrait studio on Tanner Street. I'm intrigued by how she sets the scene so that people feel comfortable when she takes their portraits. From yoga-teacher training, she has learned to take a moment for herself before a session, so that she is centered, calm, and relaxed. "It allows people to reciprocate your energy," she says. Also important: "I always have music on in here," she says. "I always make sure it smells really good."

Enjoy!



**Julia Bozone**  
EDITOR

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PHOTO BY DOUG MCCONNELL

“The heart has become the symbolic center of Haddonfield.” says Joe Sikora, president of Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust’s executive committee. “When you drive through or walk along Kings Highway, you know you have arrived.”

## M.L. DUFFY’S ENDURING BURST OF RED TURNS AFFECTION INTO A LANDMARK

# A SIMPLE HEART

By **CHRISTINE BARCIA**

Symbolizing love, a heart is universally understood to represent the affection one might feel for a loved one. No words are needed, just a heart (usually in red).

Haddonfield’s heart sculpture by M.L. Duffy also needs no words to convey love. “Low-Poly Open Heart,” located in Kings Court, is a three-dimensional welded diamond laser-cut aluminum sculpture that stands five feet tall, five feet wide and two and one-half feet deep. “The heart has become the symbolic center of Haddonfield; when you drive through or walk along Kings Highway, you know you have arrived,” Joe Sikora, the president of Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust’s executive committee and of Sikora Wells Appel, a Haddonfield landscape architecture firm.

see HEART page 6



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

M.L. Duffy’s wife, Lizzie, fixes the first iteration of the sculpture, which was white and made of plastic.



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## HEART

*from page 5*

Duffy explained that his inspiration for this sculpture came while his wife, Lizzie, was on a trip to Japan. “Missing her while she was away and my deep affection for her led me to a common heart shape/form. I wanted to make a low-poly heart for her by the time she got back from her trip,” he said. Things didn’t go exactly as planned as the sculpture went through several iterations.

“My art practice is project-based,” Duffy explained. “As new ideas and interests come to the fore, I am able to focus, explore, and refine without having to be tied down to an artistic movement, aesthetic, or theme.” This approach offers him intellectual and artistic freedom. An exploratory attitude ultimately led him to create the “Low-Poly Open Heart” sculpture. “I was messing around with some new computer programs that use advanced algorithms to manipulate three-dimensional models,” he shared. “One of the algorithms takes a 3-D object and reconstructs it using only triangular planes. This low-polygon form was something I was already exploring in drawing and painting, so I was quite interested in converting this aesthetic to sculpture (where I am much more comfortable as an artist).”

The heart is one of the first sculptures with



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color in Haddonfield, he noted. “To keep the idea of a rough, tough sculpture I used tractor paint, which, ironically has not held up well over the years,” he said, adding that he’s been back to Haddonfield several times to repaint and clean the heart.

Duffy’s sculpture, installed in March 2018, is the site of Haddonfield’s annual Valentine’s Day vow renewal. “We advertise it starting in January and have a cut off when we reach 50 couples as we have during the last few years,” Stuart Harding, the founder and chair of the Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust (HOST), explained. “Each couple is read their vows by a commissioner and receives roses, cookies, and chocolates.”

Duffy said Harting was “instrumental in making Haddonfield a permanent home” for this beloved sculpture. On trips to Haddonfield to maintain the sculpture, Duffy is able to take in the beauty and distinctness of the downtown. “I have also enjoyed seeing the different events you all have done with the Heart, like the vow-renewal ceremony at Valentine’s Day,” he said. “Low-Poly Open Heart” is the perfect photo background for any occasion of love and affection for locals and visitors alike.

“I consider sculpture more challenging than the other art forms because the artist must consider all angles, all views, and how they affect the viewer (this says nothing of materials and scale!),” Duffy said.

Currently fabricating out of his in-laws’ barn in central Virginia, Duffy teaches art at a high school in Washington, D.C. Friends from Haddonfield brighten his day when they send photos of the heart sculpture. “That little random spark of joy is one of the reasons why I think sculpture in the public realm is important; it is democratic, available to anyone, and can foster some thought and contemplation beyond the daily grind,” he mused. —08033



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

A subsequent iteration was made of wood and used zip ties.

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# *The House That Saw History*

A MODEST FEDERAL-STYLE HOME WITNESSED  
THE CREATION OF A HISTORIC DISTRICT

By Katrina Janco



When Bill and Claudette Fonshell decided to downsize after their youngest child graduated high school, they had expected to leave the community they called home for over 15 years. However, just across town they found 436 Kings Highway East, a white Federal-style twin home. It had everything they wanted — 2,200 square feet, three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, a designated parking spot. The home has gorgeous dark hardwood plank floors and a similarly beautiful stairwell railing. But its visible imperfections also played a crucial role in sealing the deal for the Fonshells. From an architectural perspective, “everything’s off, nothing’s even,” Claudette said, referring to the fact that it is slightly larger than its twin, 434 Kings Highway East. “But it has so much charm.”

PHOTOS BY BRIAN SPAGNA

From an architectural perspective, “everything’s off, nothing’s even,” Claudette Fonshell said, noting that the home she shares with her husband at 436 Kings Highway East is slightly larger than its twin at 434. “But it has so much charm.”



Though more inconspicuous compared to Haddonfield's most iconic homes, it is a surprisingly comprehensive encapsulation of Haddonfield's history. The British settler John Kay purchased the land that would house the property in 1710. Referred to as "among the leading men of the times," by the 19th century historian John Clement, Kay served in the General Assembly of the province of West Jersey, and as a judge. Besides what would become 436 Kings Highway East, he owned what would become the Barclay Farmstead and Croft Farm, both of which are now part of Cherry Hill.

In 1832, one half of the lot was sold to John Garwood Shivers, a bricklayer, and the other half to Joseph Shivers, a carpenter and John's brother. The home was built a few years later, during an era where Haddonfield began to expand beyond the core downtown area, said Doug Rauschenberger, a Haddonfield historian. John Shivers is best known for building the Three Sisters brick homes next to the Indian King Tavern Museum. The home was eventually sold, and has since been used as a private residence.

The back of the home and its small side patio face Lee Avenue. Nicknamed the lane of inches, the narrow road has a peculiar curve resulting from the crew demolishing the wrong house when building the road in the early 1920s. It's a "tiny little en-

see HISTORIC HOME page 10

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## HISTORIC HOME

*from page 9*

clave,” Rauschenberger said, with perhaps no other road like it in town. The road’s end overlooks Evans Pond, which is “one of the most important historical places in Haddonfield,” said Deborah A. Garwood, a Historical Society of Haddonfield trustee. Beginning with the construction of the original dam in 1697, the pond supported the mills that helped to make Haddonfield a regional business center until the turn of the 20th century. The pond later served as an important space for social gatherings and recreation, and it is now a part of Wallworth Park.

The home’s most notable moment in the spotlight came in the 1960s, when it was restored by prominent local architect Herbert R. Leicht, according to Rauschenberger. At the time, Haddonfield was on the path to becoming the office hub of southern New Jersey. But in 1966, after the demolition of a Victorian home on Kings Highway West, residents had enough. They demanded the borough protect historic property from developers. At the time, local officials were uninterested as “historic preservation was a new concept and obviously a controversial one, because it affects what people can do with their private property,” Rauschenberger said.

According to Rauschenberger, after re-

lentless badgering from residents, the commissioners agreed to put the creation of a historic district up for a vote. During the referendum campaign, 436 Kings Highway East was highlighted as an example of what restoration could be. One of the home's most prominent features, the white curved front entrance steps were added during the restoration. Voters approved the referendum and the historic district ordinance was approved in 1971, and subsequently Had-donfield became the second town in the state to establish a historical district. The district, which includes 436 Kings Highway East, was added to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places in 1980, and to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Since then, not much has changed — which means that history has, in fact, been preserved. According to property records, the building was changed from a house with one apartment to a single family home in 1987 with the borough issuing a certificate of occupancy in 1990 approving the conversion from a two family home back to a single family home. Air conditioning was also added around that time. The Fonsells hope to celebrate the home's bicentennial coming up in the next decade, growing older with the home's inevitable shifts over time.  
—08033



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# Finding the Light

INSIDE JILLIAN GUYETTE'S LUMINOUS TANNER STREET STUDIO, WHERE PORTRAITURE, FAMILY, AND ART CONVERGE

By Suzy Katz

Photographer Jillian Guyette didn't expect to end up in South Jersey. Raised in Rochester, New York, and trained in New York City, she built her early career in fashion and commercial photography, working with brands such as Martha Stewart and Free People and spending extended periods on set between Philadelphia and Manhattan. But in 2023, after years of working out of her home as a freelancer, she opened a storefront studio space in downtown Haddonfield, and something shifted. The town, she says, feels like Stars Hollow (the fictional town in the beloved television series "Gilmore Girls"): walkable, historic, and filled with small-town charm, yet close enough to both Philadelphia and New York that she's able to work in both cities.

The studio, located on Tanner Street, is part working artist's space, part gallery. Guyette shoots black-and-white film portraits here, scans her own negatives, and, on occasion, opens the back area for vintage clothing sales. Flooded with natural light, the space has had an unexpected influence on Guyette's work. "Shooting in here is really nice," she says. "It's super fluid. It's all natural light. The space dictated that I should be doing [portraiture]." While it wasn't the reason she rented the space, she says it has been a pleasant surprise.

see PHOTOGRAPHER page 14

PHOTOS BY DOUG MCCONNELL

"Shooting in here is really nice," Jillian Guyette says, of her storefront studio space in downtown Haddonfield. "It's super fluid. It's all natural light. The space dictated that I should be doing [portraiture]."





## PHOTOGRAPHER

from page 13

Just as important, the studio has become a visible example of what it means to be a working artist. Before each session, Guyette makes sure the space is prepared with care. “I always have music on in here. I always make sure it smells really good. That’s important,” she says. From yoga-teacher training, she learned to take a moment to center herself before clients arrive, aware that being photographed can make people feel uneasy. “Portraits make people nervous,” she says. “Family sessions make people nervous.” She places her subjects within the frame but avoids heavy direction, allowing children to move naturally and parents to relax into the moment. Though the finished portraits feel effortless, the process is not. “People think, ‘Oh, photographer, how glamorous,’” Guyette says. “And I’m like, half of it is just schlepping really heavy equipment.” The resulting works are spare and restrained. Shot on black and white film under natural light, the portraits feel at once of another time and entirely timeless.

In some ways, that creative atmosphere feels familiar. Guyette grew up in a house shaped by art and intuition; her mother is a painter, and her father worked as a psychic medium, giving readings from an office there. Creativity wasn’t abstract; she saw it practiced daily. “I just think arts and humanities are so important,” she says. “I want more creativity, more sensitivity. I think we really need it right now.”

That belief began to crystallize in 2020, when the photo industry paused during the pandemic, and Guyette found herself home with her newborn daughter. Without commercial shoots to anchor her schedule, she began photographing her child and then her mother-in-law and her own mother. Those images grew into a project that became her book, “We Keep Swimming, Until We All Reach Home,” published this past November. Spanning several years, the photographs explore “women’s intergenerational relationships, inherited histories, and [Guyette’s] esoteric upbringing,” according to the book’s blurb. Shot on analog film, the images shift between black and white and muted color. Women and children appear pressed close together, sometimes turned partially away from the lens. In one photograph, a woman stands with her back to the camera, a tree tattoo trailing roots down her spine. In another, limbs overlap and fold into one another. The effect is intimate and at times haunting. “I hope the book feels familiar,” she says. “That someone can put themselves into it.”

With the book complete, Guyette has shifted her focus back to her studio, commissions, and to a growing number of local families who stop in for portraits. Before



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opening her own studio, she had never photographed children other than her own daughter. “I never shot families before,” she says. “Once I started doing it, it felt like a really nice thing to offer.” Her photography sessions are minimally directed, allowing people to let their guard down and just be. Recently, a family came by a year after their first shoot. “It makes [the work] really special,” she says. Seeing how the children had grown and changed added an unexpected dimension to her portraits.

For Guyette, success looks different from what it once did. “Success for me is being able to continue to work as a photographer and take care of my daughter simultaneously,” she says. Lately, that means carving out space to return to her flower series, where petals and stems appear almost gossamer against simple backdrops, work she describes as her most consistently collected prints. But running a storefront studio also requires balance. “Being true to yourself and your practice, and offering that up in a public way is sometimes difficult,” she says. The goal is to keep the work authentic while making it approachable. “I think it’s okay to take your time.” —08033





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# SARAH TAMBUSSEI OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

By Julia Bozzone

Three years ago, Sarah Tambussi, the administrator of the Historical Society of Haddonfield, suffered a near-fatal brain aneurysm and stroke. That life-altering event reinforced her connection with her family, her friends, and her community — and reaffirmed her desire to give back to those around her. A decade ago, she started in her role at the Historical Society, where she supports the board of trustees and does a little bit of everything, from bookkeeping and grant writing to marketing and giving tours — whatever needs to be done.

She has long been an active volunteer. One of her earliest memories from around age 4 is being with her mother who was volunteering at a horse show benefiting



Bryn Mawr Hospital. Previously, she was on the board of the Haddonfield Educational Trust and the Haddonfield Fortnightly Juniors. Currently, she's on the board of Impact100 South Jersey.

How does she feel about promoting her community and its history? "It's a passion," she says.

I've always loved history. I come from an old Philadelphia family and have a great grandmother who traced our family all the way back to the Mayflower. My family has been in Philadelphia for hundreds of years and owned a saw manufacturing plant in northeast Philly. I grew up hearing all these cool stories from my parents.

One of my earliest memories is my mom taking me to a house that was being torn down somewhere on the Main Line. It was this beautiful old stone house. I was probably six or seven, and I was just fascinated by the history behind this old building. I wanted to go up to the homeowner or whoever was demolishing this building and yell, "Please stop!"

I come from a marketing and retail background. I ran a store in Philadelphia called Laura Ashley, but I was that person who would always be digging in the basement, going "What is this?" I am the one who kept Grandmom's china, and the chair my great grandmom always sat in when I was a kid. I live in a 115-year-old house in Haddonfield. I just love history, reading about it, studying it, promoting it, and honestly, I hope residents realize how lucky they are to live in such an amazing town with such a fascinating history.

The Historical Society is a 112-year-old nonprofit that was founded in 1914 by a group of residents who had just organized the town's 200-year celebration and realized there were some very important historic items — and a very important history — that should be kept safe for future generations. We have a group of wonderful, passionate volunteers. Our mission is to collect and preserve the history of Haddonfield but also to educate our community about this history. Our role as an educational organization is so important. We promote history, so that people will value it more.

Haddonfield was founded by Elizabeth Haddon. She came here from England by herself to claim this land for her father when she was very young, 20 or 21. She married John Estaugh in 1702 and together they helped establish the Friends Meeting. Her farm was called New Haddonfield Plantation. We have school tours for Haddonfield second graders who come every year and honestly, the kids love the story of Elizabeth Haddon. She was such a strong woman and she had so much influence over the future of this community.

We hold several significant books, documents, maps and old photos in our archives, the Patricia Lennon Archives Center, constructed in 2021. There are many

PHOTOS BY BRIAN SPAGNA



amazing artifacts held in our Collections, which are housed in Greenfield Hall. It was built in 1841 by John Gill IV. And every room has a piece of Haddonfield's past to see. We have a table and mirror that belonged to Elizabeth Haddon. I can imagine her standing in front of it. There is a sports room upstairs. Take a look at the boneshaker, a very old bike!

We really are so lucky to have been gifted many amazing historic items over the years. Our Collections chair, Dianne Snodgrass and her committee, including tool curator Josh Ottenberg, work so hard to manage and safeguard our museum collection. And our archivist, Dr. David Platt, along with his volunteers, constantly fields reference questions as well as managing all the records within the archives.

One of my favorite exhibits in Greenfield Hall is our Don Wallace Tool Cellar. We have over 3,000 tools in the basement of Greenfield Hall. They are displayed by industry. We have everything down there: from an ice saw, blacksmith tools, vintage doctors' tools, farm equipment, a cobbler's tools, and old kitchen gadgets. We even have a horseshoe that was found nearby that belonged to a Hessian pony from when the Hessian soldiers occupied the area in 1777 before the Battle of Red Bank.

see SARAH TAMBUSI page 18

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## SARAH TAMBUSI

from page 17

Haddonfield has the second oldest volunteer fire company in the U.S. Haddonfield's Friendship Fire Company was started in 1764. Think about it: That was before the Revolutionary War had even started, and there were maybe 600 people in town. We have several leather fire buckets. Each volunteer had to have two buckets, in case they lost one. They were painted with the owner's name on them. We have Sarah Hopkins's bucket. (Women could volunteer too!) They are actually beautiful, and what a reminder of how important it was to be part of an active community that volunteered to support each other.

We also have a third building on our campus, the Samuel Mickle House, circa 1730s, and the oldest wood-framed house in Camden County. At one point it was owned by Elizabeth Haddon and was located next to Indian King Tavern. Eventually, it was moved to Ellis Street. It was later brought to our property in the 1960s.

We're part of the Camden County History Alliance. We meet at other historic properties throughout Camden County and I've seen some beautiful old buildings and locations. The last meeting was held on the USS New Jersey Battleship — and wow, that was fun! We work with many local historical organizations: Lawnside, Haddon Township, Audubon, Haddon Heights, Merchantville, and the Black Haddonfield History Project.

As a resident of this town, I feel like keeping our connection to the community vibrant is one of the most important parts of my job. We really try to promote and work with other organizations in town too.

My mom had a small gift shop in Media, Pennsylvania for almost 40 years, and I worked there almost every Saturday for many years, starting as a teenager. I loved knowing the other store owners and their families. And that experience definitely made me realize how important it is to support small businesses — and I want to do that for Haddonfield. I love shopping downtown. The Historical Society of Haddonfield has published several books over the years and in addition to selling them in Greenfield Hall, they can be found at Inkwood Books.

A favorite project that's coming up on March 15 is called "A Stitch in Time." The Historical Society has about 20-25 samplers from 1700 up until 1850. These cross-stitch samplers were created by young ladies from Haddonfield. They would stitch numbers, letters, add their name, and sometimes their family mem-

see SARAH TAMBUSI page 19

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bers' names. Many of these girls did not go to formal schools in the 18th and early 19th century, so this needlework was an educational tool and their way of learning how to sew in a time when everything was made by hand.

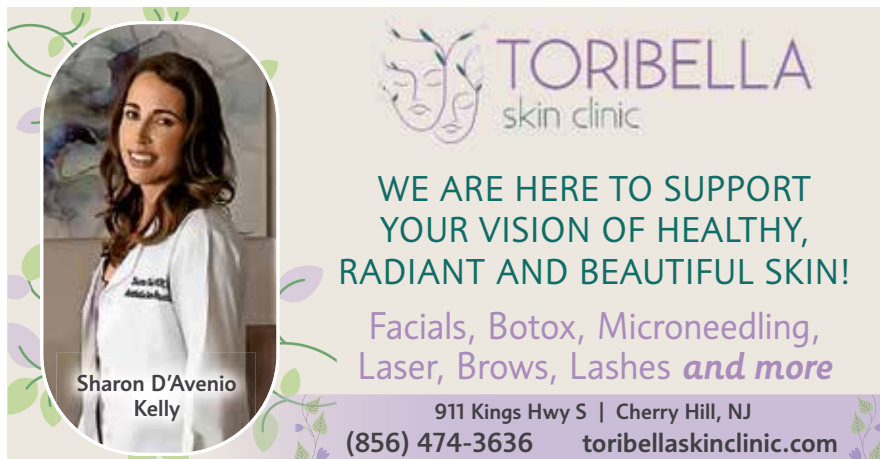
One of the samplers in our collection was created by Letitia Matlack in 1734. Her half-brother, Timothy Matlack, was the scribe for the Declaration of Independence. He grew up on the property that is now Indian King Tavern Museum and later moved to Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War.

We will be having numerous speakers in the spring, starting with Will Krakower from the Princeton Battlefield on April 8 at Tavistock Country Club. On May 21, we will have a speaker who wrote a book about the Declaration of Independence. And in June, we are partnering with Indian King Tavern for a speaker on the New Jersey Constitution. And of course we cannot forget about the Haddonfield Skirmish on June 6. It will be great this year!

I love our Haunted Haddonfield tours. We've run them in the fall for over 20 years. The tours are based on two books by Bill Meehan, Jr., "Haunted Haddonfield" I and II. The most recent book we published was the Samuel Nicholson Rhoads book that was written by Kim Custer, along with several middle school students. Mr. Rhoads was an ornithologist and grew up in Boxwood Hall, the old historic building across from the library. We should have a new book by Garry Wheeler Stone published next year.

We're about to launch a house plaque program after many months of planning and coordination. For a fee, we will research a Haddonfield property and then provide a report and a customized plaque that can be hung on the outside of the house. Last week I was at the Camden Maritime Museum, which is run by Urban Promise, to see if they will cut the plaques for us. We had to get the Historic Preservation Commission to approve the plaque because they need to review any signage on a town building, whether it's a historic building or not. We will be creating these for anyone within the zip code 08033, for any age property. The plaques will indicate when a property is in the historic district.

The Historical Society has many records, but we don't have all the records for Haddonfield properties. Some of them are in Camden at Camden City Hall, some are at the Camden County Historical Society, and some are in digital Philadelphia records. It's amazing what you can find! I love doing research, but that's my history nerd side showing. This is a big endeavor for us, but it helps us provide a historical education for the community. It's also a great conversation starter. —08033



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# A GREEN MISSION

THE REFILL MARKET HELPS SHOPPERS FEEL GOOD ABOUT HELPING THE PLANET

By Debra Wallace

The author Amy Rebecca Tan has been a loyal shopper at The Refill Market in Haddon Township since the day it opened. A longtime environmental advocate, she said she was looking for exactly that kind of store.

At the heart of the shop is Tina Solak, who opened the market nearly five years ago with the support of her husband of 25 years, Anton, and their sons, Jason and Will. Combining a background in retail and customer service with a passion for sustainability and a commitment to leave the smallest possible carbon footprint, Solak set out to create a space that reduces waste and encourages mindful consumption.

“I feel like I’ve always been an environmentalist, but what that means has changed over the years,” Solak explained. “When I was younger, I was upset about baby animals, and this evolved to being upset about litter, and now it’s moved to reducing plastic use and consuming less,” she said. “Whenever I can, I try to buy second-hand or use products from small businesses.”



PHOTOS BY DOUG MCCONNELL

“I’m proud to say that my most popular items are the refillable liquid hand soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent,” Tina Solak enthused at The Refill Market, which she opened nearly five years ago in Haddon Township. “It wasn’t always this way. I used to sell more retail products than refills, so that tells me that refilling is catching on!”



Tan appreciates that ethos firsthand. Several years ago, she bought a pretty glass jar with a pump that she refills regularly with liquid soap. She relies on the store for refillable dental floss containers, bar soaps, shampoos, and enjoys giving a variety of locally made gifts including candles, lotions, and dish towels to friends and family.

"I love all the refill options because they allow me to pay for the product only, not the packaging," she said, adding that the shop makes it easy to avoid single-use plastic and products with questionable ingredients. "Shopping at the market feels good and makes sense."

"There is a store in North Jersey near my brother-in-law's house, and I wanted a place like that where I could shop," said Solak. "Since there wasn't one nearby, I decided to open one, and help my customers enjoy high-quality products while caring for the environment."

Solak said she is extremely pleased with the support she receives from her customers and other small businesses.

"My younger customers are passionate about leaving less of an environmen-

tal footprint. A lot of them are trying to teach their parents about refilling. A lot of my business has grown via word of mouth during the past five years."

She said that her Gen-Z customers share their enthusiasm for the store with their parents, while her older shoppers are often able to afford the cleaner ingredients because they have more disposable income. She also has regulars who travel from Cape May and Princeton every two to three months to stock up on their favorite items.

The Refill Market offers a variety of everyday essentials, from dish brushes and hand soaps to shampoos, lotions, and hand towels, along with unique gifts for birthdays, Mother's Day, and anniversaries. Popular refillable items include liquid hand soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent. In keeping with her sustainability goals, Solak made the conscious decision not to sell merchandise printed with the store logo and she encourages customers to bring their own containers — or to use donated glass and aluminum jars that have been cleaned and sanitized for reuse.

see REFILL MARKET page 23



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## Haddonfield Happenings



### IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS.

When it comes to your social calendar change is ... not always good. But sometimes it's inevitable. Check each organization's website for updated event information.

#### HADDONFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Friday, March 6, 10:30-11:30am. Monochrome Coloring.** Escape into relaxing illustrations with just one color! "Monochrome coloring is a calm, creative way to unwind. You only need one color — black. No stress, no overthinking — just breathe and color your way to peace." All supplies provided. Registration is required for this event and closes on March 6 at 10:30am. A library card is required to register for this event. This event is for registrants age 18 and above.

**Friday, March 6, 1:30-4:30pm. Film Series with Ralph Secinaro.** This week, Ralph is screening *ONLY ANGELS HAVE WINGS* (1939). Registration is required for this event and closes on March 6 at 1:30pm.

**Saturday, March 7, 11-11:45am. Ukelele with Chris: An Introductory Music Class.** Join Mr. Chris for an introductory ukulele class. Instruments will be provided! Registration is required for this event and closes on March 7 at 10:30am. This event is for registrants in 2nd grade through 5th grade.

**Wednesday, March 11, 10:30-11:30am.**

**Intermediate Embroidery.** Join Rebecca Miller as she leads a second session teaching more advanced embroidery stitches. This class is perfect for crafters with some embroidery experience. Attendees will leave with their own stitch sampler. Registration is required for this event and closes on March 11 at 10:30am. A library card is required for this event. This event is for registrants in age 18 and above.

**Wednesday, March 11, 3:30-4:30pm. Stirring Up History.** Kids in grades K-3 will step back in time with a history-themed story, explore colonial cooking tools, and create a simple recipe for a hands-on taste of the past. Registration is required for this event and closes on March 11 at 3:30pm. This event is for registrants in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

**Friday, March 13, 1:30-4:30pm. Film Series with Ralph Secinaro.** This week, Ralph is screening *BALL OF FIRE* (1941). Registration is required for this event and closes on March 13 at 1:30pm.

**Monday, March 14, 10-10:30am. St. Patrick's Day Story & Craft.** Join Ms. Jordan for a story and a LUCKY craft. Ages 3-7. Registration is required for this event and will close on March 14 at 9:30pm. A library card is required for this event and for registrants age 3-7. This program is designed for children and accompanying adults. Please plan to attend and be engaged with your child in this program. Drop-offs will not be

permitted.

**Wednesday, March 18, 3:30-4:30pm. Stirring Up History.** Kids in grades K-3 will step back in time with a history-themed story, explore colonial cooking tools, and create a simple recipe for a hands-on taste of the past. Registration is required for this event and closes on March 18 at 3:30pm. This event is for registrants in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

**Friday, March 20, 1:30-4:30pm. Film Series with Ralph Secinaro.** This week, Ralph is screening *SERGEANT YORK* (1941). Registration is required for this event and will close on March 20 at 1:30pm.

**Tuesday, March 24, 3:30-3:45pm, 3:45-4pm, 4-4:15pm, 4:15-4:30pm. Read to a Dog.** Got a favorite book? Bring it along and read out loud to Mia, a super sweet, tail-wagging listener who *loves* stories! Whether you're a brand-new reader or a chapter-book champ, Mia's ready to lend a furry ear during your special 15-minute reading session. Paws, pages, and plenty of fun await! \*Recommended for children reading at all levels. Registration is required for this event and opens on March 1. A library card is required to register for this event.

**Wednesday, March 25, 3:30-4:30pm. Stirring Up History.** Kids in grades K-3 will step back in time with a history-themed story, explore colonial cooking tools, and create a simple recipe for a hands-on taste of the past. Registration is required for this event and closes on March 25 at 3:30pm. This event is for registrants in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

**Saturday, March 28, all day. Spring-Themed Take-Home Craft.** Recommended for ages 3 and up, while supplies last.

**Sunday, March 29, 12-3pm. Lego Club.** Use your imagination and come build with Legos! This program is not structured and is just free play with other children. This program is designed for children and accompanying adults. Please plan to attend and be engaged with your child in this program. Drop-offs will not be permitted.

### IN THE COMMUNITY

**Sunday, March 15, 1-3pm. A Stitch in Time at The Historical Society of Haddonfield, 343 Kings Hwy.** Learn about the art, history, and enjoyment of needlework in the 18th century. The Historical Society has more than 22 samplers on display. Dianne Sondgrass, fabric arts expert, will give a brief history of their importance. A sampler kit will be for sale. The event is FREE, space is limited. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-stitch-in-time-tickets-1980777554988?aff=oddtcreator>



## REFILL MARKET

from page 21

A former stay-at-home mom, Solak moved with her family from Bermuda to Haddonfield in 2007, and it was love at first sight. “We love the business community, the schools, and found a tight-knit community with friendly neighbors.”

Her sons played a key role from the start: her older son, Jason, 21, worked in the store before college, while her younger son, Will, 18, helps with inventory.

Solak also brings her products to the Collingswood Farmers’ Market, selling popular refillable soaps, household items like loofahs and dish brushes, and personal care items including shampoo and conditioner bars, nail brushes, and bamboo toothbrushes. She’s even happy to bring any store item if a customer requests it in advance.

“I’m proud to say that my most popular items are the refillable liquid hand soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent,” Solak explained. “It wasn’t always this way. I used to sell more retail products than refills, so that tells me that refilling is catching on!”

The Collingswood Farmers’ Market is open on Saturday from early May to Thanksgiving. Solak plans on selling her goods there on the second Saturday of each month.

When it comes to Solak, she said she uses nearly everything she sells, including the solid shampoo and conditioner bars and lavender laundry concentrate.

She has been able to sample almost everything in the store, because if there is a small amount in the container, she will bring it home. Among her favorites is the Dip Tobacco & Driftwood shampoo bar because the “nice earthy scent” makes it great for both men and women.

Donna Moffett of Haddonfield has been shopping at The Refill Market since it opened. She noted how helpful and friendly Solak is.

“I appreciate the work and dedication she puts into her shop,” she said. “Not only can I feel great about reducing plastic, but I also know she has thoroughly researched the products she carries.”

Moffett said she is working hard to teach her 10- and 14-year-old children “to care for our beautiful planet.”

Among her favorite products are the Root and Splendor liquid laundry concentrate, the Dip conditioner bar, soap bars by Blueberry Fields Artisan Soap, and Oneka Lavender Lotion.

“The market has also helped me become more aware of the products I purchase at other stores,” Moffett said.

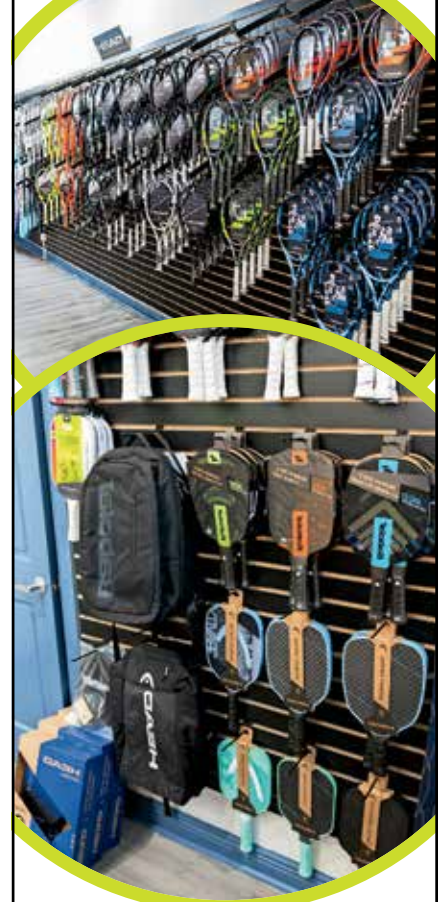
Solak is also proud that The Refill Market “provides a valuable service to the community, as evidenced by my large base of regular customers, the steady stream of new customers, and those who drive from far away to shop with me,” she said.

“In these uncertain economic times,” she said, “I hope that my shop will be around for many years to come!” —08033

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